

AROUND THE HOUSE



The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a voluntary program designed to help low-income Section 8 voucher holders establish an escrow account that may be used by families in a variety of ways, such as a down payment on a new home!

Families in the program must establish and achieve interim goals that will lead to reaching their final goal. Although **homeownership** is an excellent option, several families have chosen to **improve their overall credit rating, complete undergraduate degrees, start their own businesses, or simply maintain gainful employment**. Clients participate in homeownership training classes, GED completion programs, interview and skill development classes as well as meeting with their Leasing Specialist to periodically review their progress. As an incentive, families who complete their final goal receive the funds accumulated in their escrow account.

Announcing Graduates for May 2002!

FSS Graduates for May 2002 are Marsha K. Simpson and Angelina Coleman-Tohounke. Congratulations to Marsha and Angelina for completing their FSS goals and receiving their escrow funds!

Announcing New FSS Staff Member

DIANE BOYD has joined Housing Services as a Housing Leasing Specialist working with the FSS Program. Diane brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. Formerly she worked at Career Development as an Employment Specialist. She was successful in assisting dislocated workers and indigent clients with career counseling, job placement and job development. Diane brings with her an expertise in customer service and knowledge of community resource availability. Diane is excited about her new position, and is ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Diane will be joining Vallery Fields as they develop a more comprehensive FSS program and assist clients in creating a new vision for prosperity and success!

Great things are on the horizon for FSS and we want you to be a part of it! If you are interested in participating in the FSS program, please call 268-4688 and ask for Vallery Fields or Diane Boyd.

**WELCOME
NEW
EMPLOYEES**

MATT OLSEN, a Systems Analyst with IT/IS, joined us May 6 as our housing system administrator. Matt has been with the City of Wichita for one year. He takes care of problems related to the Housing Department's information system, consults with vendors and the IT/IS Center on issues relating to automating systems, and submits 50058 to HUD and other government agencies.

ELIZABETH BENNETT, Clerk I in the Section 8 office, joined us on May 21. Elizabeth has experience in medical billing and working with accounting software. Her main responsibility will be working with accounting data entry, office support for two Housing Leasing Specialists, and assisting with the receptionist area.

TEKETA HARDING, Housing Leasing Specialist in the Section 8 office, joined us on June 3. Teketa has several years experience working in the banking industry along with conducting homeownership seminars for low to moderate income customers and managing caseload. She has worked with Community Housing Services on home mortgaging and marketing loan packages for affordable housing.

A pet deposit is required for dogs and cats kept on the premises of WHA (Wichita Housing Authority) residential units. Deposits for dogs or cats are \$150 for the first animal and \$100 for the second animal. No more than two animals are allowed per single-family house. Apartment residents are only allowed one animal.

Dog breeds not allowed by the Public Housing pet policy are rottweiler, pit bull, German shepherd, chow, Doberman pinscher or any mix thereof. Dogs must be 18" inches or less in height and 30 pounds or less in weight at maturity.

If the resident is in violation of the pet policy, the Property Manager will serve written notice. If the violation is not cured, the violation will constitute grounds for the termination of the lease and will also terminate the resident's privilege for future eligibility in the Public Housing or Section 8 programs. Those residents currently having authorized pets on Public Housing property and have not paid the necessary pet deposit are urged to contact their Property Manager immediately to avoid any lease violations.

The Public Housing Division requires that all residents follow the established pet policy, which is an attachment to the rental lease agreement. Reports continue to come into our office indicating that some Public Housing residents are still not in compliance with the pet policy. Property Managers have and will continue to enforce the policy, which can lead to the eviction of the resident.

HUD regulations require us to have a copy of birth certificates on file for each household member. Notarized birth statements have been accepted in the past; however, copies of birth certificates will be required beginning with the October 2002 Section 8 annual reexamination. If you do not have birth certificates, you will need to make application for them.

Application forms can be picked up in the Section 8 office at 307 Riverview or at the Sedgwick County Health Department at 1900 E. 9th Street. If you have birth certificates and are uncertain whether they are on file, please provide copies again.



This notice is for Public Housing tenants that are receiving the Utility Reimbursement check to help pay for their utilities. It is important for you to understand that this check is MAILED to you by the THIRD FRIDAY of every month. You should call the office regarding this matter ONLY if you don't receive the check by the FOURTH FRIDAY.

Trips or phone calls made to the City's Housing Services Department, Treasury Department or the Controller's Office in order to receive these checks sooner than the scheduled third Friday of the month will only result in time wasted for you and city workers as well.

In addition, the US Postal Service will only mail utility checks to property addresses, not post office box numbers or forwarding addresses.



Lucky Residents Attend Training

A meeting notice went out a few months back announcing the opportunity for any Housing Authority tenant to attend, **FREE OF CHARGE**, a Professional Development Seminar focusing on leadership development. Six lucky individuals took us up on the offer to attend and they were not disappointed! "The best seminar I've attended", "The speaker was fantastic", "We learned so much!" were just some of the enthusiastic words spoken by attendees during and after the two-day event held June 7 and 8 at the Club House Inn and Suites. Roy Moseley, Inafay Grays-McClellan, Dorothy Warnacut, Edith Mott, Carol Adams and Ron Sanders were each presented with certificates of completion as well as a comprehensive notebook used throughout the seminar.

The Resident Leadership notebook gives detailed, easy-to-read information on resident organizations, leadership, decision-making, and grant writing that will assist anyone with the desire to form a resident council in their neighborhood.

Are you wishing now that you attended the training? Not to worry, because we've arranged for the next best thing! A copy of the notebook is available on a check-out basis for any Housing Services client to take home and read. If you would like to sign-out the notebook, please call Maryann Wynn at 268-4688 to inquire about availability before you make the trip down to our office.

Summer Recreation Voucher Program is Underway!

The call to Public Housing residents went out last month to sign up for a limited number of vouchers available for recreation activities for their kids. The response was swift and one hundred vouchers were claimed in just three days!

Voucher recipients will be receiving a program evaluation in the mail. Please fill out this evaluation and return it to our office in person, by mail or with your next rent payment. Your feedback is valued and will be very much appreciated.



HUD's Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey Distributed Within 60 Days

What is it?

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is sent to a sample of public housing residents at each Public Housing Agency (PHA) on a yearly basis to find out how satisfied they are with the living conditions at their development. This survey is part of HUD's increased commitment to monitoring Public Housing Agencies.

How is this survey different?

For the first time your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions will be included in HUD's yearly evaluation of your housing agency. This survey was developed with the help of PHA's, resident leaders, and representatives of the industry.

Who will be asked to fill it out?

Public Housing residents throughout the nation will be included in the survey process. Not all residents will receive a survey. Residents will be chosen randomly using a computer program. The survey will take place yearly, so if you do not receive a survey this year you may in the future. ***Your cooperation in returning the survey is appreciated.***

Summer

Warm weather means it's time to fire up the grill! It's also a good grilling safety. Although cooking outdoors is one of America's great pleasures, it's not without its dangers. Grilling near an apartment building, on a balcony or wooden deck, puts your home, family and possessions, and those of all your neighbors, at great risk. Follow these tips to prevent your barbeque from turning into a tragedy.

Cookout Safety

Charcoal Grills

- Never use gasoline or kerosene to start the fire.
- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers. Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if you provide ventilation.
- Because charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes until it is completely extinguished, don't store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Gas Grills

- Check grill hoses to make sure that they are in good shape with no leaks, cracks or blockage each time you use your grill. Replace worn out parts immediately.
- Keep hoses as far away as possible from the actual flame and make sure they are not located where hot grease can drip on them.
- Replace scratched, dented or nicked gas containers.
- Check for gas leaks when you reconnect the grill to a gas container.
- If you smell gas, do not attempt to grill until you've had a chance to turn off the gas and determine the source of the leak.
- Do not smoke or have an open flame around leaky grills.
- Never grill indoors and keep grills at least 10 feet away from any building.

Use caution when storing gas containers. Store them upright, away from the grill and in a secure, outdoor location that isn't exposed to sunlight. Always carry containers upright.

If you use common sense, follow your owner's manual and practice the safety tips provided here, your cookouts will be safe and trouble free.



McLean Manor Resident Association Meeting Scheduled

Formation of a resident association at McLean Manor is being considered BY THE RESIDENTS in order to make residing at McLean Manor the best it can be. An important meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean Manor Community Room.

The meeting will focus on organizing a resident association, selecting and approving by-laws, and encouraging nominations for interim officers to six-month appointments. All residents' ideas, suggestions and goals are welcomed, needed, and wanted.

If you have questions about the meeting or resident associations or cannot make the meeting but still have something to contribute, please contact Dot Warnacut.

Spring Yard Care Bonanza Was a Success!

We had over 80 people respond to the call to help beautify Wichita! For two days in May, folks who called to receive grass and flower seed, sprinklers and hoses were able to come to our office and pick up their lawn care items.

Some of the nicest lawns from all the Public Housing units throughout Wichita are currently being selected as award winners! We'll be announcing the winners in the next newsletter, so if you see a neighbor's name mentioned, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done!

***Thanks to everyone who participated
in the program!***

National Night Out Tuesday, August 6

National Night Out is a nationwide crime prevention program designed to celebrate the effectiveness of local and national crime prevention programs and to strengthen neighborhood spirit in support of anti-crime initiatives. Residents in neighborhoods throughout the nation will be asked to lock their doors, turn on their outside lights, and spend 6-10 p.m. with neighbors and police. If you would like to participate, please call:

Officer Heather Frazier at 268-4101.



City Link, Public Information Office, July 2002



Cleveland Street Development Project

Power CDC, a City-recognized Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), broke ground on a new single-family housing project in the 1000 block of north Cleveland. A groundbreaking ceremony was held at 1034 N. Cleveland on Wednesday, June 26, at 2:30 p.m.

The new homes will feature full basements, as well as 2-car garages, with a base price of \$75,000. Eligible homebuyers will receive interest-free loans for the down payment and closing costs involved in purchasing the home and obtaining a mortgage loan through the City of Wichita's HOMEownership 80 program.

Power CDC successfully completed a ten-home single-family housing development at 21st and Piatt, and is in the process of completing a similar project involving six new homes in the 1200 block of north Ash.

Around The House

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGER PRINT?

We are considering putting together a large print version of the newsletter for those who need it. If you would care to receive your newsletter in that format, fill out and send in the form below and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

Send to: Wichita Housing Services
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